

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-25 are pending with claims 17-25 being new.

In response to the Election requirement of June 5, 2003, Applicant elects species I, the embodiment of Figs. 1-3. Claims 1-6 and claims 11-16 read on this species.

An Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 are submitted herewith, identifying references cited in the counterpart European application. The independent claim and various of the dependent claims in that application, which claims correspond to the claims as originally filed in the present application, were rejected in view of AT02658, US 2,178,710 and EP867126. The independent claim in the European Application was amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4 and has since been indicated as allowable. The present claim 1 has been amended to correspond to the amendments made in the European application. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 3 and 4, which have been cancelled without prejudice.

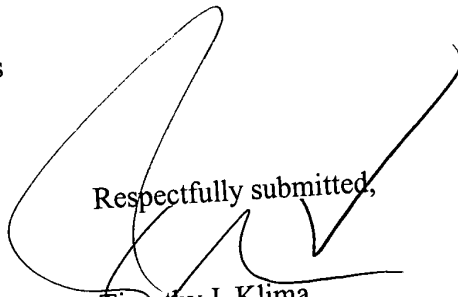
The claims have also been amended to remove reference numerals and to replace "characterized in that" with "wherein".

New claims 17-25 correspond to original claims 8-16 but with different dependencies and the changes noted above.

New claims 20-25 read on the elected species

The next action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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